

Join NFCC Sailors for a Spring Cruise to the Bahamas!

April 23 – May 9, 2020

Want to take your boat on a cruise to the Bahamas but you're not sure if you're ready? We have just the cruise for you – a short trip to the Bahamas designed for beginners. Not only have we planned out a detailed itinerary, we'll also hold training sessions to help get the training and information you need to get ready.

The informal presentations will cover such things as recommended cruising guides to the Bahamas and the Intracoastal Waterway, marine communications, navigation, EPIRBs and other satellite-based signaling devices, customs and immigration, on-board power management, provisioning and food preparation on board, watch standing and emergency safety equipment.

The cruise we propose is designed especially for sailors with limited cruising experience and smaller, modestly equipped boats. Naturally, experienced, cruisers are also welcome.

This cruise offers coastal cruising from Jacksonville to West Palm Beach and a relatively easy trip to the Bahamas - crystal clear water and a quick getaway to a subtropical paradise. The whole trip could be done in 11 days, but we are planning 14 days to allow for weather, and sight-seeing in Palm Beach and the Bahamas.

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Leg One: Cruising down the coast. (approx. 285 mi.)

It takes about 2 to 2.5 days continuous sailing offshore at five to six knots to reach West Palm Beach. We expect to stay at Riviera Beach City Marina located immediately west of the Lake Wales Inlet (a/k/a Palm Beach Inlet) between Singer and Palm Beach islands. Along the way, inlets at St. Augustine, Cape Canaveral and Fort Pierce, provide opportunities to duck inside and continue on the Intracoastal Waterway ("ICW") if necessary due to bad weather. As long as we are offshore, we will sail together and have a VHF radio net twice a day to check on everyone's welfare and discuss subjects of common interest such as the latest weather forecast.

Layover in West Palm

Day 4: Your opportunity to re-provision and recreate. Options include a dingy trip to Peanut Island to see the JFK bunker, enjoy the beach and snorkel, or a drive into West Palm Beach or Palm Beach Island where there is an abundance of shops and restaurants for all budgets.

Leg Two: Lake Wales Inlet to the Bahamas

You're crossing open ocean and the Gulf Stream but it's only 56 miles so you're never more than 28 miles from land. The condos and towers on Florida's coast are visible up to 20 miles out so you're in sight of land for much of the crossing. With a masthead antenna you can hear the VHF NOAA weather broadcasts all the way to West End.

Arrival at West End

The entrance to Old Bahama Bay Marina is visible from eight miles away and faces westward making for an easy and straightforward arrival. Once there you can explore West End and environs to your heart's content.

Leg 3, 4: Your return Trip. You have several options on your return. West End Bahamas to Jacksonville is 270 miles. Sailing straight through with a boost from the Gulf Stream it should take only 36 hours or so. Again, the preference is to sail together with a radio net twice a day, but if you prefer, you are more than welcome to break off on your own to explore more of the Bahamas. Or you may opt to sail back to West Palm Beach and continue home up the ICW. Of course, plans and routes can change depending upon the weather.

Marina Facilities: See below for information, rates and amenities and rates at Riviera Beach City Marina and Old Bahama Bay Marina.

Cruise Rules

-) Open to NFCC members and non-members.
-) Registration fee: None. Cruise pennants and t-shirts will be available for sail prior to the cruise. We will have a BYOS (Bring Your Own Stuff) dock party at Riviera Beach Marina and an optional party at Old Bahama Bay at a cost to be determined.
-) Each boat is responsible for making its own reservations for slips at Riviera Beach City Marina and Old Bahama Bay Marina.

Eligibility

Participating boats must meet the following criteria:

-) Seaworthy self-righting cruising sailboat not less than 28 feet in length and equipped with an auxiliary engine. (The Cruise Committee will consider exceptions based on the qualification of a boat by virtue of its offshore history and/or survey.)
-) 25-watt VHF radio, preferably with a masthead antenna. Must at be capable of tuning to channels 9, 13, 16, 22A, 68, 69, 71, 72, and 78A.
-) GPS chart plotter capable of displaying real-time latitude and longitude location data.
-) The designated skipper shall be 21 years of age or older.
-) Minimum crew of three including the skipper is recommended.
-) Boats shall conform to all U.S. Federal regulations.
-) Adherence to Category 4 requirements of the latest "World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Governing Offshore Racing" is recommended. <http://www.sailing.org/specialregs>
-) A valid e-mail address and cell phone number are required for entry.
-) Current valid passports are required for all participants

Anyone wishing to participate should send their name, email address, phone number, and boat make, model and name to cruise captain, Brad Ramirez at wbrad.ramirez@gmail.com as soon as possible so the planning proceed and information sessions begin in a timely fashion.

Riviera Beach City Marina

(West Palm Beach)

Reservations: Call (561) 842-7806

<https://marinavillagepalmbeach.com/riviera-beach-marina-amenities.html>

J Conveniently located only a few minutes from Lake Worth - Palm Beach Inlet.	J Sanitation Pump-Out at all slips
J One of the safest all-weather inlets on the East Coast, with no bridges or other obstructions from the inlet to the marina.	J Ship's Store on site. Open 7 days a week 8am to 5pm.
J Newly built - features 140 wet slips.	J Deluxe Restrooms - air-conditioned with showers.
J Wi-Fi	J Laundry Facility
	J On-Site Fueling
	J Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week.
<u>Daily Short-Term Rates</u>	<u>Utilities Per Day, Per Cord</u>
J Slip \$2.80 per ft.	J 30 amp \$15.00
J Facedock \$3.80 per ft.	J 50 amp \$20.00

Old Bahama Bay Marina

West End, Grand Bahama Island - Only 56 miles from Palm Beach, FL

Reservations: (888) 983-6188

<http://www.oldbahamabayresorts.com/marina>

A Full-Service Marina Destination	<u>Customs and Immigration Fees</u>
J 72-slips with a controlling depth of 8 feet at mean low tide.	o Permits & Fees: \$150 per vessel 35' and under; \$300 per vessel above 35'
J 24-hour security.	o Includes clearance, cruising permit and fishing fee for up to three people.
J One of the only night navigable points of entry in the Bahamas.	o \$25 per additional person.
J State-of-the-art facilities.	o Fees are valid for two entries within a 90-day period.
J Fuel Dock on site.	o Customs and Immigration accept cash, VISA or MasterCard.
J Laundry Facilities – coin operated.	o Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. year-round, but extended hours can be arranged with prior notice.
Rates for Spring & Summer 2020	
Dockage:	Electric:
\$2.99 per ft. (min. 30 feet) per night	J \$0.70 / ft / night (0 – 59 ft)
	J \$0.90 / ft / night (60 ft-79 ft)

**Dockage-only reservations are subject to \$20 per night resort fee when staying on your boat.*

J \$1.25 / ft / night (80 ft+)

Water:

J \$15.00 / night (0 - 59ft)

J \$20.00 / night (60ft-79ft)

J \$25.00 / night (80ft+)

Resort Hotel Rooms (Optional):

* Pool view junior suite - \$240 per night

* Ocean view junior suite - \$290 per night

* Ocean front junior suite - \$330 per night

J Rates do not include 28% tax and \$20.00 per night resort fee.

J Discounts available if reserving 10 rooms or more

Old Bahama Bay Marina Continued

Activities and Amenities Included in Hotel and Dockage Rates

J Paddleboards

J Kayaks

J Snorkel Equipment

J Swimming Pool

J Beach Loungers

J Bicycles

J Tennis Courts

J Playground

J Basketball Court

J Beach Volleyball

J Ping Pong

J Pool Table

J Kids Beach Toys

J Wii Station

J Lawn Games

Fee-Based Activities That Can Be Booked On-Site or Prior To Arrival

J Snorkel Trips

J Ecology Tours

J Bonefishing

J Reef and bottom fishing

J Native fishing adventures

J Private Boat Charter

J Sunset Bahama Mama Cruise

J Island Tours

J Private Island Picnic

J Massages and spa services

Pet Policy: One pet, with no size restrictions, is allowed per room with a \$200 refundable advance deposit to pay for any damage done by the pet. All pets must comply with Bahamian regulations.

Disclaimer of Liability

The safety of the boat is the responsibility of the skipper, who must ensure that the boat is sound, seaworthy and manned by competent crew who are physically fit for the cruise.

At all times the skipper and crew have the final and sole decision whether they or their vessel should participate in or continue any portion of the cruise. All participants take part in the cruise of their own volition and at their own risk and shall hold the North Florida Cruising Club and the Cruise Committee harmless and free of any liability for their decision to participate in the cruise and the consequences that accompany such decision.